

ILLINOIS REGISTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 1) Heading of the Part: Nursing Education Scholarships
- 2) Code Citation: 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597
- 3)

<u>Section Numbers:</u>	<u>Proposed Action:</u>
597.10	Amendment
597.20	Amendment
597.40	New Section
597.100	Amendment
597.105	New Section
597.110	Amendment
597.115	New Section
597.200	Amendment
597.210	Amendment
597.220	Amendment
597.230	Amendment
597.235	New Section
597.240	New Section
597.300	Amendment
597.310	Amendment
597.320	Amendment
597.330	Amendment
597.335	New Section
- 4) Statutory Authority: Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975].
- 5) A Complete Description of the Subjects and Issues Involved: This rulemaking proposes changes to standardize various aspects of the Nursing Education Scholarship program. Specifically, amendments seek to update terms and definitions, make changes to tuition and stipend determination for recipients, clarify provisions regarding scholarship renewals, update requirements for deferment and waiver for nursing education and employment obligation, and incorporate reporting and recovery provisions. The intent of these changes is to formalize current practices within the program and provide recipients with clearer delineations regarding deferment and waiver options.

A significant change sought by this rulemaking is the modification of the current scholarship renewal process. The proposed rulemaking seeks to limit a scholarship renewal to only the current nursing degree being sought – rather than allowing a recipient to hold and renew a scholarship for each advance nursing degree sought. The current practice requires the Department to reserve future scholarships, which has the effect of

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depriving new students from scholarships. Under the proposed amendment, should a current scholarship recipient wish to pursue a higher nursing degree, the recipient would need to apply for a scholarship to cover the advance education rather than merely retain the current scholarship.

The rulemaking also provides the Department with formal criteria for when recipients request to defer or waive their nursing education or service obligation. The proposed rulemaking would provide standards on when a deferment or waiver is applicable, criteria on how a recipient can make these requests, and descriptions of the Department's role in these processes.

The economic effect of this proposed rulemaking is unknown. Therefore, the Department requests any information that would assist in calculating this effect.

The Department anticipates adoption of this rulemaking approximately six to nine months after publication of the Notice in the *Illinois Register*.

- 6) Published studies or reports, and sources of underlying data, used to compose this rulemaking: None
- 7) Will this rulemaking replace any emergency rulemaking currently in effect? No
- 8) Does this rulemaking contain an automatic repeal date? No
- 9) Does this rulemaking contain incorporations by reference? No
- 10) Are there any other proposed rulemakings pending on this Part? No
- 11) Statement of Statewide Policy Objectives: This rulemaking does not create or expand a State Mandate.
- 12) Time, Place and Manner in which interested persons may comment on this proposed rulemaking: Interested persons may present their comments concerning this rulemaking within 45 days after the publication of this issue of the *Illinois Register* to:

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Assistant General Counsel
Division of Legal Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
535 W. Jefferson St., 5th floor

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- 13) Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:
- A) Types of small businesses, small municipalities and not for profit corporations affected: None
 - B) Reporting, bookkeeping or other procedures required for compliance: None
 - C) Types of professional skills necessary for compliance: None
- 14) Regulatory Agenda on which this rulemaking was summarized: July 2015

The full text of the Proposed Amendments begins on the next page: